

Policy & Architecture

Circulars

Circulars are instructions or information issued by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to Federal agencies

(<http://www.fgdc.gov/policyandplanning/omb-circulars>).

- [OMB Circular No. A-16 Revised: August 19, 2002](#)
 - This Circular provides direction for federal agencies that produce, maintain or use spatial data either directly or indirectly in the fulfillment of their mission. It establishes a coordinated approach to electronically develop the [National Spatial Data Infrastructure \(NSDI\)](#) and establishes the [Federal Geographic Data Committee \(FGDC\)](#).

The Circular has been revised from the 1990 version to reflect changes in technology, further describe the components of the NSDI, and assign agency roles and responsibilities for development of the NSDI. The revised Circular names the Deputy Director for Management of OMB as Vice-Chair of the Federal Geographic Data Committee.

- **Note: NPS is the lead agency on the Cultural Resources Data theme. (Cultural Resources: DOI, National Park Service.)**

The Cultural Resources theme includes historic places such as districts, sites, buildings, structures of significance in history, architecture, engineering or culture. Cultural Resources also encompass prehistoric features as well as historic landscapes.

- [OMB Circular No. A-130 Revised, \(Transmittal Memorandum No. 4\)](#)
 - This Circular establishes policy for the management of Federal information resources. OMB includes procedural and analytic guidelines for implementing specific aspects of these policies as appendices.

A-130 implements provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (U.S.C. 44), as well as other statutes, Executive Orders and policies concerning general information policy, information technology, privacy and maintenance of Federal records.

The Federal Government is the largest single producer, collector, consumer, and disseminator of information in the United States. Because of the extent of the government's information activities, and the dependence of those activities upon public cooperation, the management of Federal information resources is an issue of continuing importance to all Federal agencies, State and local governments, and the public.

Please read A-130 further for Agency responsibilities.

Acts: Formal legislation or law.

- [Clinger-Cohen Act of 1996](#)
 - Formerly the Information Technology Management Reform Act, it authorized appropriations for FY1996 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, to reform acquisition laws and information technology management of the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

The Clinger-Cohen Act supplements the information resources management policies contained in the PRA (Paperwork Reduction Act 1980) by establishing a comprehensive approach for executive agencies to improve the acquisition and management of their information resources, by:

1. Focusing information resource planning to support their strategic missions; implementing a capital planning and investment control process that links to budget formulation and execution; and
2. Rethinking and restructuring the way they do their work before investing in information systems.

The PRA establishes a broad mandate for agencies to perform their information resources management activities in an efficient, effective, and economical manner. To assist agencies in an integrated approach to information resources management, the PRA requires that the Director of OMB develop and implement uniform and consistent information resources management policies; oversee the development and promote the use of information management principles, standards, and guidelines; evaluate agency information resources management practices in order to determine their adequacy and efficiency; and determine compliance of such practices with the policies, principles, standards, and guidelines promulgated by the Director.

Executive Orders

Executive orders are official documents, numbered consecutively, through which the President of the United States manages the operations of the Federal Government (<http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/executive-orders/about.html>).

- [Executive Order 12906](#)
 - Geographic information is critical to promote economic development, improve our stewardship of natural resources, and protect the environment. Modern technology now permits improved acquisition, distribution, and utilization of geographic (or geospatial) data and mapping. The National Performance Review has recommended that the executive branch develop, in cooperation with State, local, and tribal governments, and the private sector, a coordinated National Spatial Data Infrastructure to support public and private sector applications of geospatial data in such areas as transportation, community development, agriculture, emergency response, environmental management, and information technology.

Executive Order 12906 calls for the establishment of the [National Spatial Data Infrastructure](#) defined as the technologies, policies, and people necessary to promote sharing of geospatial data throughout all levels of government, the private and non-profit sectors, and the academic community.

 - [Executive Order 13286](#) amends Executive Order 12906 by specifying a transfer of certain functions to the Secretary of Homeland Security.

Architecture: Federal IT and Geospatial Architecture.

- [The Geospatial Platform](#)
 - The partner agencies of the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) are developing a Geospatial Platform to more effectively provide place-based products and services to the American public. The Geospatial Platform will be a managed portfolio of common geospatial data, services, and applications contributed and administered by authoritative sources and hosted on a shared infrastructure, for use by government agencies and partners to meet their mission needs and the broader needs of the Nation (<http://www.geoplatform.gov/>).
 - [Geospatial Platform Fact Sheet](#)
 - [Geospatial Platform Overview and Status, August 2010](#)
 - [Modernization Roadmap for the Geospatial Platform](#)
 - Version 3.0 August 2010

- [DOI Enterprise Architecture Geospatial Modernization Blueprint](#) [this DOI link is currently under construction. This link will be updated when available.]
 - The focus of the Interior Enterprise Architecture is on providing guidance for IT issues and initiatives that are Interior-wide or multi-bureau in scope. The Geospatial technologies architecture defines the technologies, standards and guidelines that relate to the use and sharing of data that can be referenced geographically. It includes any mapping activities such as geographic information systems (GIS), global positioning systems (GPS), aerial photography, surveyor data, remote sensing & imaging (e.g., satellite), planetary GIS, spatial modeling, visualization, geospatial mapping products of Computer Aided Drafting/Design (CAD), and "any data tied to a location".
 - If used correctly, the Interior Enterprise Architecture will act as a catalyst for those looking to capitalize on its contents and better understand the full meaning of its guidance. The Interior Enterprise Architecture is not intended to be the "last word" (e.g., some automated checklist for product selection). It is intended to be one of the "first words" to assure that the Interior's mission priorities and its IT priorities remain closely aligned.

Note: To remain up to date on GIS Standards Policy and Planning in the Federal Government, visit the FGDC's webpage on [Policy and Planning](#).